

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ALGERIAN REVIEW OF SHARAN SITUATION

1. IN HOURS DISCUSSION OF SAHARAN ISSUES 9 MARCH WITH
DCM AND SENIOR SEMINAR MEMBER SELIGMANN, ABERKANE, CHIEF
OF NORTH AMERICAN AND WESTERN EUROPEAN DIVISION, MFA,
COVERED USUAL GROUND IN FAMILIAR TERMS. HIGHLIGHTS OF
DISCUSSION INCLUDED:

A. CURRENT SITUATION: EVERYONE NOW HAS THEIR "BACKS
TO THE WALL." HASSAN CANNOT BACK DOWN WITHOUT
ENDANGERING THRONE. MAURITANIANS, WHOM ALGERIANS DISCOUNT,
FACE EXPANSIONIST MOROCCO, INTERNAL DIVISION AND GUERRILLA
ACTIVITY; IN ANY CASE, THEY JUST BEING TOWED BEHIND
MOROCCAN BOAT. GOA "TOTALLY COMMITTED" TO POLISARIO CAUSE.
GUERRILLA WARFARE CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE ON FOR
"YEARS" IN SAHARA, AND ALGERIANS REMAIN PREPARED TO CONTINUE
THEIR SUPPORT AS LONG AS NECESSARY. THERE NO
WAY MOROCCANS CAN DEFEAT POLISARIO GUERRILLAS;
DANGER EXISTS MOROCCANS WILL SEEK TO WIN WAR BY
WIDENING IT, POSSIBLY WITH ATTACK TINDOUF, ALGERIANS
DO NOT WANT WAR BUT WILL FIGHT FOR TINDOUF OR ANY

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OTHER PIECE OF ALGERIAN TERRITORY AND ARE PREPARED --

FAR BETTER THAN IN 1963 -- TO DEAL MOROCCANS SHARP
DEFEAT IF MOROCCANS ATTACK.

B. UN AND MEDIATORS: ABERKANE "PERSONALLY" SKEPTICAL
ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF UN PLAYING ANY ROLE IN DEFUSING
CURRENT SITUATION. RYBECK ARRIVING SHORTLY, BUT ALL
SIDES SEEM TOO DUG IN. MEDIATION POSSIBILITIES
ALSO DIM. WOULD-BE MEDIATORS HAVE MADE MISTAKE OF
TRYING TO RECONCILE ALGERIA AND MOROCCO. ALGERIA HAS
NO QUARREL WITH MOROCCO AND ANY MEDIATION ATTEMPT MUST
BEGIN WITH SAHRAOUI-MOROCCAN DISCUSSION AND ONLY THEN
PROCEED TO INVOLVE OTHER CONCERNED AND INTERESTED
COUNTRIES OF AREA.

C. SELF-DETERMINATION: CREATION OF SAHRAOUI DEMOCRATIC
ARAB REPUBLIC DOES NOT PRECLUDE EXERCISE OF SELF-
DETERMINATION NOR PREJUDICE ITS RESULTS. SDAR AND
POLISARIO WOULD AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN AND ABIDE BY
RESULTS OF JUST REFERENDUM ORGANIZED BY UN.

2. OTHER POINTS INCLUDED STANDARD DENIAL OF ANY
TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS, EXPRESSION OF CONCERN ABOUT
RISKS OULD DADDAH WAS RUNNING, ASSERTION THAT MOROCCO
UPSETTING EQUILIBRIUM IN MAGHREB, REPEATED ASSURANCES
THAT ALGERIA DID NOT SEEK WAR, AND ALLUSIONS TO CURRENT
"MALAISE" AND "DANGER" IN US-ALGERIAN RELATIONS ARISING
FROM APPARENT US SUPPORT OF MOROCCAN EXPANSIONISM
TARGETED AGAINST ALGERIAN REVOLUTION. PARKER

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